

Hurricane Katrina

- Anticipated
landfall early
today
- Maximum
sustained winds
175 mph
- 28-foot
storm surge
possible

ANOTHER CAMILLE?

Brace for Katrina's fury and heartache

By TRACY DASH
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GULFPORT — South Mississippi is braced for the fury, and subsequent heartache, of powerful Hurricane Katrina.

Packing winds at 180 mph at mid-day Sunday, the Category 5 Hurricane Katrina is expected to make landfall around 7 a.m. today near Grand Isle, La.

Forecasters warn that a 25-foot storm surge is possible and predict the area will experience hurricane-force winds for about 12 hours. Tropical storm winds were expected to reach the coast by Sunday eveing.

Some watching the track of Hurricane Katrina believe it will be as catastrophic, if not more so, as Hurricane Camille, the most powerful hurricane to hit land in U.S. history.

The following is an excerpt from a blog on Weather Underground.com, a Web site specializing in weather: "If the eye wall was to shrink to 15 nautical miles in diameter, we would have another Camille — except it is a larger storm than Camille."

"If Katrina maintains a Category 5 intensity all the way to the coast, a storm surge of 24-28 feet will hit the Delta region ... this storm will produce the most catastrophic damage in modern times if it maintains its intensity and projected track. The repercussions will be felt nationwide for a very long time."

Harrison, Hancock and Jackson county officials ordered mandatory evacuations in some areas and urge other residents to leave town.

In Harrison County, mandatory evacuations for Zones A and B were effective at 10 a.m. Sunday. Flood zone maps are located on the Harrison County Civil Defense Web site at www.co.harrison.ms.us. They also are printed on page 55 of the 2005 Bellsouth phonebook.

Col. Joe Spraggins, director of the Harrison County Emergency Management Agency, strongly urges all Harrison County residents to get out of

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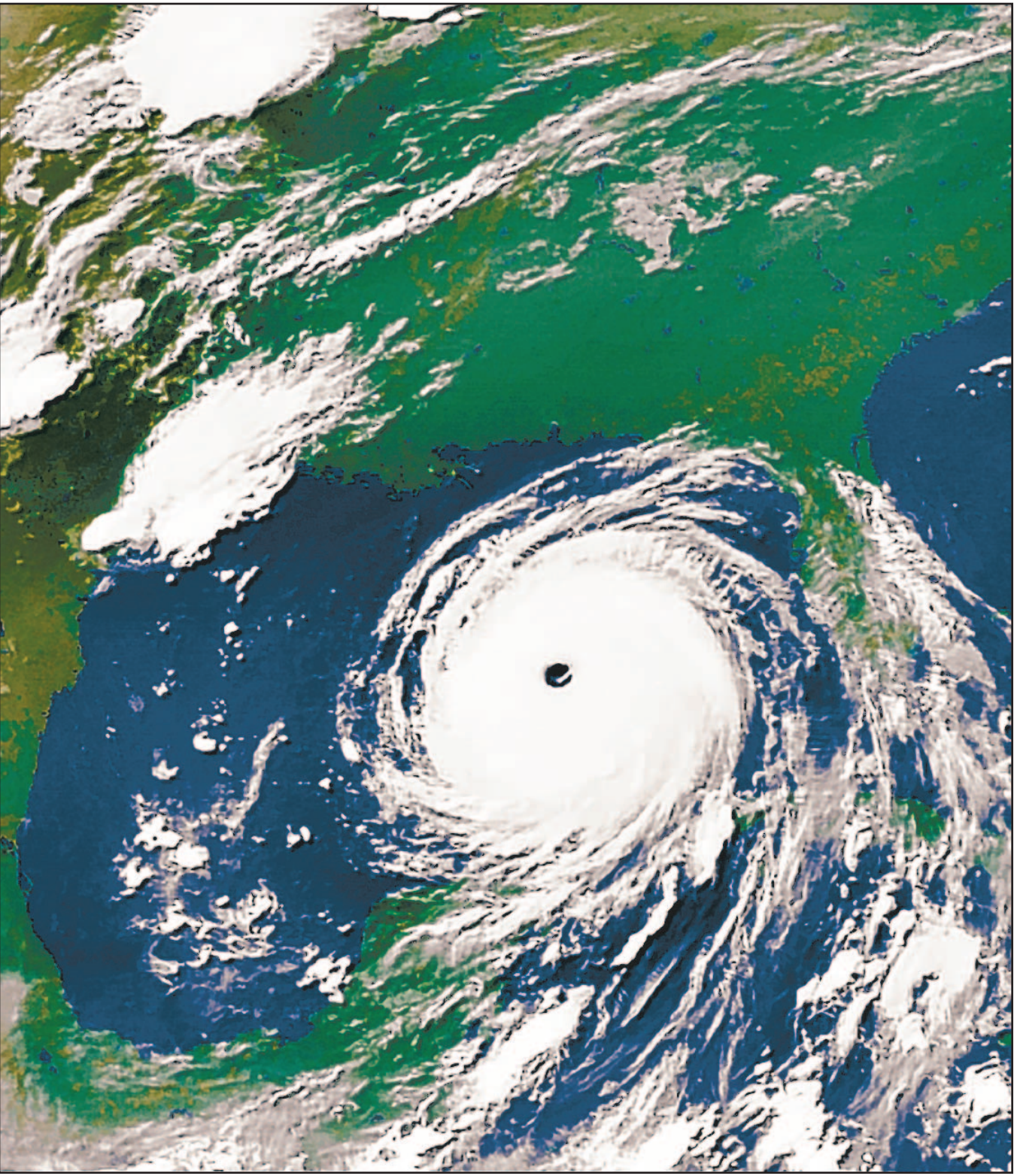
To our readers:
Due to weather conditions created by Hurricane Katrina, home delivery of the Sun Herald on Tuesday may not be possible in some areas.

These newspapers will be delivered to shelters and other locations, which will be listed on our Web site, www.sunherald.com.

Flexible special publication and delivery schedules will be adopted as post-Katrina conditions dictate and allow.

Godspeed

— THE EDITORS



This image from NOAA on Sunday shows Hurricane Katrina about 275 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. According to the National Hurricane Center, Katrina is currently a Category 5, with maximum sustained winds near 175 mph with higher gusts.



As guests leave, work crews board up the entrance of the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino on Sunday as Hurricane Katrina bears down on the Gulf Coast.

New Orleans mayor: Get out of Katrina's way

By MARY FOSTER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Katrina strengthened to a dangerous Category 5 storm on Sunday with 175 mph sustained wind as residents of South Mississippi and Louisiana jammed freeways in a rush to get out of the low-lying region and head inland to higher ground.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the north-central Gulf Coast from Morgan City, La., to the Alabama-Florida, meaning hurricane conditions were expected within 24 hours, the National Hurricane Center said. Tropical storm warnings extended east to Indian Pass, Fla., and west to Cameron, La.

Katrina had been blamed for nine deaths in South Florida.

The hurricane's landfall could still come in Mississippi and affect Alabama and Florida, but it looked likely to come ashore Monday morning on the southeastern Louisiana coast, said Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. That put New Orleans squarely in the crosshairs.

Mayor Ray Nagin ordered a mandatory evacuation for the city of New Orleans on Sunday as Hurricane Katrina bore down on the city with sustained wind up to 175 mph.

"If it came ashore with the intensity it has now and went to the New Orleans area, it would be the strongest we've had in recorded history there," Rappaport said in

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IN THE EYE



After the winds

What do you do after the storm has passed? A guide to starting to return your life to normal after the storm, A-9

Hurricane facts

- Shelter listings for the three counties, A-6
- Closings on the Coast for today and Tuesday, A-4

ONLINE



www.sunherald.com is the place to go to throughout and after Katrina's dance across South Mississippi.

■ Get the latest news, ask questions or share your observations and views at the Sun Herald's Hurricane Katrina blog, "EyeOnKatrina."

■ Go to sunherald.com for the link, or e-mail bloggers Don Hammack (dthammack@sunherald.com) and Geoff Pender (capitalbureau@aol.com or glpender@sunherald.com).

■ And share your digital photos of the approach and/or the aftermath of the hurricane with the rest of the world through our Web site. Go to sunherald.com and look for the how-to information.

EDITORIAL

The power of prayer . . . and plywood

Prayer and plywood now stand between us and the greatest threat to South Mississippi from a hurricane since Camille.

But unlike Camille, the slow approach of Katrina has provided us with time to prepare or flee. For that, we can be truly thankful.

By now, there is little if any opportunity left for preparations. Evacuation is all but out of the question.

Those who have chosen to remain are expected to experience one of the greatest furies that nature can unleash.

The storm is almost certain to change the face of South Mississippi forever.

But our communities have experienced such devastation before. Camille also forever altered many of our lives and much of our landscape.

Enduring such a calamity is part of our collective heritage. Whatever challenges Katrina presents us, we are confident that they too will be met with similar resolve.

We at the Sun Herald are as concerned as anyone about what this day may bring. But we have no doubt that, with time, whatever can be done will be done to restore our way of life.

Until then, may all the plywood hold.

And may all our prayers be answered.

SOUND OFF OF THE DAY

"It just warmed my heart to read in the paper where those two little girls had their birthday party and gave the proceeds, gifts of school supplies from other kids. That really shows a lot."

More Sound Offs, A-2

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